(b) Physical targets set for covering, a number of villages for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the Government of the targets for the same period as at (a) & (b) above State-wise; and

(d) the major bottlenecks towards achieving the targets and steps proposed to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A statement of physical targets and achievements of village electrification under Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Scheme, State-wise, and Year-wise for the years 1992—97 is Government Annexure. *[See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 70]. A Statement of Allocation of funds and disbursements for village electrification under REC Schemes for the period of 1992—97 is given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 70]

(d) Overall physical and financial targets were fully achieved and even exceeded in some areas during the 8th Plan Period 1992—97. However, certain States could not achieve their respective plan targets on account of the poor financial conditions of the SEBs, the non-remunerative nature of rural electrification programmes, non-receipt of subsidy by the SEBs from State Governments and the remote location of balance un-electrified villages and other factors. For overcoming the bottlenecks being faced by State Electricity Boards[7] Electricity Departments, their financial health needs to be improved and steps have to be taken to make the programme financially remunerative and viable.

Recovery of dues from SEBs

2368. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Electricity Boards collectively owe National Thermal Power Corporation over Rs. 7000/- crores;

(b) if so, the prime defaulter States; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to recover those dues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The collective outstanding dues payable by SEBs to NTPC stand at Rs. 7766.30 crores as on 31st May, 1998 which include surcharge of Rs. 2744.54 crores.

(b) The major defaulting States are:

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Delhi
3. Jammu & Kashmir
4. West Bengal
5. Bihar and
6. Orissa

(c) The Government has been pursuing the issue of recovery of dues with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards. Recourse has also been taken to appropriation from the Plan assistance to the respective States. NTPC is trying to ensure the current and future supply of power against irrevocable Letters of Credit.

SEB's Agreement with IPPs

2369. SHRI B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEBs have been rushing into new agreements with IPPs at an unrealistically high PLF;